

## THE REPORTER'S POT-POURRI

## RANDOM SKETCHES PICKED UP IN OUR GREAT METROPOLIS.

## Mr. Smith's Announcement That Mrs. Jones Has Moved.

An EVENING WORLD reporter, paying a call to an old friend who had moved into new quarters three days before, read these words pointed on a square bit of glass which had been set in the window-door and were illuminated by the hall light:

MRS. JONES AND THE OILS HAVE MOVED.

On entering, the scribe wonderingly asked the meaning of the sign.

The host, plainly showing irritation, replied: "A Mrs. Jones occupied this house before I moved in. She had half a dozen pretty daughters and I guess they were rather popular with the young men, for there were a lot of them. That is, they were pulled about a dozen times the first and second nights, and I got tired of telling young dudes that Miss Carrie Jones had moved away, that Miss Amelia was out, and that Miss Maud didn't live here any more."

"So I had that sign fixed, and last night I enjoyed the fun of hearing patent leathers ascend the front steps, and then to see them read the notice, and then to see them again. In a week or two all the young swells in town will have been apprised of the fact that Mr. Smith and not Mrs. Jones now runs this shab."

## A Wonderful Drop in the Price of Fountain Pens.

"Here you are now, fountain pens only 15 cents each!" cried a peddler in Fulton street.

He had a pad of paper in one hand and a small rubber tube in the other. He was busy making penholders across the paper to show

peddlers what a real good thing a fountain pen is. When an EVENING WORLD reporter spoke to him he exhibited quite a fund of general knowledge of other styles of the goods that he was trying to sell.

"Five or six years ago fountain pens, or stylographic pens, as they were then called, were quite a novelty, and good prices were asked for them; but since then other inventions have come on the market and the price has come down wonderfully."

"The pen that was sold for \$5 or \$6 can now be had for about half that sum. There are good pens to be obtained for \$1, and a plain pen can be bought for 50 cents."

The pens I am selling were made to sell for a quarter, but they didn't 'take' well, and we peddlers gave them for next to nothing. Even at this low price they are a drug in the market, for people have been fooled so often by poor pens, that have failed them when they were most needed that they are afraid to invest in one of these."

## The Pretty Hand of an Unknown Makes an Attractive Picture.

A maiden lady photographer, appreciating the difficulty in depicting the human hand, has made photographs of one and copies are exposed for sale in his windows.

They are designed for the use of young artists in drawing, or can be placed in the library as ornaments. The pictures show the hand in two positions, one extended outward, with the fingers hanging loosely apart, the other holding a glass full of some frothy liquid in an upright position.

In an EVENING WORLD reporter was told that the hand is that of a lady well known in New York's society.

It is a pretty hand, and the owner, whoever he may be, should be proud of it.

There is an engagement ring on the third finger and a neat gold band next to it.

## A Ready Street Sale of Cheap Cards and Chips.

A good pack of playing cards and 100 poker chips are now being sold on the streets by the fakers for a quarter of a dollar.

The outfit is contained in a neat box. The chips are made of celluloid and are the size of a dime. They are red, white, yellow and blue, there being twenty-five of each color. The sell like hot cakes on a frosty morning. The street men say the young clerks of the neighborhood are the chief purchasers. During the lunch hour these youths frequent some convenient billiard hall or saloon and pass a fascinating half-hour bucking the tiger at penny ante.

## Max Maretzek's Jubilee.

Max Maretzek has named Feb. 12, as a convenient date for the testimonial celebration of the golden jubilee of his musical career, offered in a letter from August Belmont, Cornelius Vanderbilt, William Steinway and others.

MONTELL'S TREMENDOUS COBOL produces calm and healthful repose after all stages of toothache. 25c.

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## THE GREAT WAR SYNDICATE

Remarkable Story of Hostilities Between the United States and Great Britain.

How a Wonderful War Was Waged by Contract Near the Close of the Nineteenth Century.

BY FRANK R. STOCKTON.

Author of "Rudder Grange," "The Lady or the Tiger," "The Late Mrs. Noll," "The Casting Away of Mrs. Leeka and Mrs. Alahine," &c., &c.

(PUBLISHED BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH MR. P. F. COLLAIR, OF "ONCE A WEEK.")

SYNOPSIS OF INSTALMENTS I-VI.

One year is the stipulated time within which a Syndicate agrees to bring to a close the hostilities which exist between this country and England, at the close of the present century. The contract is made with the American Government, and is to be forfeited in case of failure. Several vessels are equipped with a cannon-proof steel armor, and a like number of submarine vessels called "crabs" are constructed. These crabs, by means of powerful electric apparatus, are able to destroy the electric apparatus of three English men-of-war which encounter off a Canadian seaport town, thus leaving them helpless. A powerful bomb of steel manufactory is discharged into the sea, which explodes all the torpedoes and submarine batteries planted along the coast. A second bomb then entirely obliterates a half-burned fort on the coast, and the next day still another bomb destroys a garrisoned fort, the occupants of which had fled in obedience to a warning letter from the syndicate. "Repeller," both in the force of those bombs that nearly every piece of glass in the town is shattered, and the inhabitants are inclined to believe that supernatural forces are at work.

INSTALMENT NO. 7.

WHEREIN THE SYNDICATE FOUND ITSELF IN AN EMBARRASSING AND DANGEROUS POSITION.

Early the next morning the little fleet of the Syndicate prepared to carry out its further orders. The waters of the lower bay were now entirely deserted, craft of every description having taken refuge in the upper part of the harbor, near and above the city. Therefore as soon as it was light enough to make observations, Repeller No. 1 did not hesitate to discharge a motor-bomb into the harbor, a mile or more above where the first one had fallen. This was done in order to explode any torpedoes which might have been set into position since the discharge of the first bomb.

There were very few people in the city and suburbs who were at that hour out of doors where they could see the great cloud of water arise towards the sky, and behold it descend like a mighty cataract upon the harbor and adjacent shores; but the quick, sharp shock which ran under the town made

people spring from their beds; and although nothing was then to be seen, nearly everybody felt sure that the Syndicate's forces had begun their day's work by exploding another mine.

A lightning-bomb, the occupants of which had been ordered to leave when the fort was evacuated, as they might be in danger in case of a bombardment, was so shaken by the explosion of this motor-bomb that it fell in ruins on the rocks upon which it had stood.

The two crabs now took the steel net from their moorings and carried it up the harbor. This was rather difficult on account of the islands, rocks and sandbars; but the leading crab had on board a pilot acquainted with those waters. With the net hanging between them, the two submerged vessels, one carefully following the other, reached a point about two miles below the city, where the net was anchored under the Syndicate. It did not

reach from shore to shore, but in the course of the morning two other nets, designed for shallower waters, were brought from the repellers and anchored at each end of the main net, thus forming a line of complete protection against submarine torpedoes which might be sent down from the upper harbor.

Repeller No. 1 now steamed into the harbor, accompanied by Crab A, and anchored about a quarter of a mile seaward of the net. The other repeller, with her attendant crab, cruised about the mouth of the harbor watch-

ing a smaller entrance to the port as well as the larger one, and thus maintaining an effective blockade. This was not a difficult duty, for since the news of the extraordinary performances of the crabs had been spread abroad, no merchant vessel, large or small, dared to approach the port, and strict orders had been issued by the British Admiralty that no vessel of the navy should, until further instructed, engage in combat with the peculiar craft of the Syndicate.

territory into the United States, or a capture of one of the United States vessels, naval or commercial, by a British man-of-war, or an attack upon an American port by British vessels, the city would be bombarded and destroyed.

A message, which was, of course, instantly transmitted to London, placed the British Government in the apparent position of being held by the threat by the American War Syndicate. But if the British Govern-

ment, or the people of England or Canada, recognized this position at all, it was merely as a temporary condition. In a short time the most powerful navy of the world, the Royal Navy, as well as a fleet of transports carrying troops, would reach the coasts of North America, and then the condition of affairs would be completely changed. It was absurd to suppose that a few medium-sized vessels, however heavily armored, or a few new-fangled submarine machines, however destructive they might be, could withstand an armada of the largest and most powerful vessels in the world. A ship or two might be disabled, although this was unlikely, now that the new method of attack was understood; but it would soon be the ports of the United States, on both the Pacific and Atlantic coasts, which would be under the guns of an enemy.

But it was not in the power of their navy that the British Government and the people of England and Canada placed their greatest trust, but in the incapacity of their petty foe to support its ridiculous assumptions. The claim that the city lay under the guns of the American Syndicate was considered ridiculous, for few people believed that these vessels had any guns. Certainly, there had been no evidence that any shots had been fired from them. In the opinion of the capable people the destruction of the forts and explosions in the harbor had been caused by mines—mines of a new and terrifying power, which were the work of traitors and confederates. The destruction of the light-house had strengthened this belief, for its fall was similar to that which would have been occasioned by a great explosion under its foundations.

But, however terrifying and appalling had been the results of the explosion of these mines, it was not thought probable that there were any more of them. The explosions had taken place at exposed points distant from the city, and the most careful investigation failed to discover any present signs of mining operations.

This theory of mines worked by confederates was received throughout the civilized world, and was universally condemned. Even in the United States the Syndicate, strong against this apparent alliance between the Syndicate and British traitors that there was reason to believe that a popular pressure would be brought to bear upon the Government sufficient to force it to break its contract with the Syndicate and to carry on the war with the American army and navy. The crab was considered an admirable addition to the armament of a navy, but a man-of-war, armed and fired by perditional confederates, was considered unworthy an enlightened people.

The members of the Syndicate now found themselves in an embarrassing and dangerous position; a position in which they were placed by the universal incredulity regarding the instantaneous motor, and unless they could make the world believe that they really used such a motor-bomb, the war could not be prosecuted on the plan projected.

It was easy enough to convince the enemy of the truth, for the Syndicate was able to effect, but to make that enemy and the world understand that this was done by bombs, which could be used in one place as well as another, was a difficult task. They had attempted to prove this by

night stands." After that it came to New York and will take a rest. Mr. Berliner, the manager, says that he shall have the play rewritten and hold it for an opening in this city. He thinks that there is nothing like a production in New York City to determine the exact value of a play.

E. J. Buckley, now with "A Noble Son," has been offered an engagement to support Nat Goodwin in that gentleman's coming season at the Fifth Avenue Theatre. Mr. Goodwin is making an effort to secure a very strong company.

Willard Tremayne is the name of an extremely well-to-do gentleman, who is busying himself in the interests of the new museum to be started in Harlem. Mr. Tremayne is quite interesting. He is the nephew of Colonel Wells. He studied law, and was admitted to the bar. But his strong desire to try his fortunes upon the stage drove him in that direction. Mr. Tremayne lectured at the "Monitor and Merit" panorama and at the Mexican village.

At Amberg's Theatre, Herr Junkermann will remain during the present week. To "Oskar Fraessig" will be given, to-morrow, "Lustige Doctoren," Wednesday, "Die lustigen Haunt," Thursday, "Hasekump's Tochter," Friday evening and Saturday matinee, "Unser Doctor," and Saturday evening "Amnestie."

Cerele Francois de l'Harmonie Hall. The whole interior of the Metropolitan Opera-house will be transformed into an Oriental garden, with its flowers and luxuriant with palms and other foliage plants, on Thursday, Jan. 21, when the grand annual mask-ball and carnival of the Cerele Francois de l'Harmonie take place.

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